

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising:

an audio signal switch section for outputting one of a first audio signal having a first volume level and a second audio signal having a second volume level by a switching operation; and

a mute section for automatically muting the first audio signal which is output from the audio signal switch section ~~when~~ after the audio signal output from the audio signal switch section is switched by the audio signal switch section from the second audio signal to the first audio signal.

2. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the mute section mutes the second audio signal which is output from the audio signal switch section when the audio signal switch section switches the first audio signal to the second audio signal.

3. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first audio signal includes an external audio signal.

4. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first audio signal includes an audio signal reproduced from an audio and video recording and reproduction medium.

5. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second audio signal includes an audio signal reproduced from an audio and video reproduction-only medium.

6. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second audio signal includes an audio signal reproduced from an audio reproduction-only medium.

7. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the first audio signal includes an external audio signal,

the second audio signal is reproduced from a reproduction-only medium,

the first volume level of the first audio signal and the second volume level of the second audio signal are different from each other,

the audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus has a reproduction mode for reproducing the second audio signal from the reproduction-only medium and a stop mode for stopping the reproduction of the second audio signal from the reproduction-only medium, and

the audio signal switch section switches the second audio signal to the first audio signal when the reproduction mode is switched to the stop mode.

8. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a video switch section for outputting a first video signal corresponding to the first audio signal or a second video signal corresponding to the second audio signal by a switching operation.

9. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first video signal includes an external video signal.

10. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first video signal includes a video signal reproduced from an audio and video recording and reproduction medium.

11. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the second video signal includes a video signal reproduced from an audio and video reproduction-only medium.

12. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the second video signal includes a still picture signal reproduced from a still picture signal medium.

13. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the second video signal includes a third video signal reproduced from the audio and video reproduction-only medium and a still picture signal reproduced from a still picture signal medium,

the audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus has a reproduction mode for reproducing the third video signal from the audio and video reproduction-only medium and a stop mode for stopping the reproduction of the third video signal from the audio and video reproduction-only medium, and

the video signal switch section switches the third video signal to the still picture signal when the reproduction mode is switched to the stop mode.

14. (Original) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the second video signal includes a still picture signal reproduced from a still picture medium, and

the video switch section outputs the still picture signal when the mute section mutes the first audio signal.

15. (Previously Presented) An audio and video recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the mute section only mutes the first audio signal which is output from the audio signal switch section when the audio signal switch section switches the second audio signal to the first audio signal.